

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 140700 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088

INFO AMEMBASSY AMKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUM

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 522

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIMT CQ

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH SUPPORT MAKARIOS AGAINST
BISHOPS, GIVING ARCHBISHOP PROBABLE MAJORITY IN ANY
APPEAL

REF: NICOSIA 506 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: SEE SUBJECT.

1. CYPRUS PRESS AND RADIO REPORT THAT BISHOP OF ANTIOCH,
ELIAS, HAS JOINED PATRIARCHS OF JERUSALEM AND ALEXANDRIA
AND ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS IN DECLARING UNLAWFUL CYPRUS
BISHOPS' MOVE TO DEFROCK MAKARIOS, ELIAS REPORTEDLY
CABLED ARCHBISHOP THAT BISHOPS' ACTION WAS IN
HIS VIEW " ABSOLUTELY VOID, IRREGULAR AND DEPLORABLE".
HE REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS AND SAID HE
CONTINUED RECOGNIZE HIM AS ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS.
ARCHBISHOP OF SINAI AND BISHOPS OF PARAEUS AND MICAEA
HAVE ALSO JOINED CHORUS OF ECCLESIASTICS SUPPORTING
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MAKARIOS.

2. COMMENT: ARCHBISHOP HAS SEVERAL COURSES OPEN TO HIM IN RESPONDING TO BISHOPS.

A) HE COULD APPEAL DECISION TO EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD. DEPENDING ON WHETHER SYNOD WERE CONSTITUTED ACCORDING TO CYPRUS CHURCH CHARTER OR CANON LAW, IT WOULD HAVE EIGHT OR 12 MEMBERS, DRAWN FROM FOUR GREEK PATRIARCHATES AND GREEK AND CYPRUS HOLY SYNODS.

B) HE COULD DEPOSE ONE OR MORE VYPRUS BISHOPS, CALLING FOR ELEVATIONS TO FILL VACANT SEATS.

C) HE COULD CONTINUE TO IGNORE BISHOPS, STANDING ON POSITION THAT SYNOD WHICH THEY CALLED TO TRY HIM, AND DECISIONS STEMMING FROM IT, ARE ILLEGAL.

3. SIGNS SO FAR ARE THAT ARCHBISHOP INTENDS TO IGNORE BISHOPS' DECISION, WHILE MOVING TO DEPOSE BISHOP OF PAPHOS AT LEAST. BUT JUST POSSIBLY, HE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO APPEAL TO PARAMOUNT LEADERS OF GREE ORTHODOX CHURCH -- SO LONG AS VERDICT IS PREORDAINED. BISHOP OF ANTIOCH'S SUPPORT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THIS REGARD IN THAT IT PROBABLY ENABLES ARCHBISHOP TO WIN IN EITHER APPEAL. POLITICALLY, APPEALING TO SPECIAL SYNOD MIGHT HAVE ADVANTAGE OF CLEAR- CUT VICTORY OVER BISHOPS, AND BY EXTENSION GRIVAS AND OTHERS WHO SET THEM IN MOTION. AND FROM STANDPOINT OF CYPRUS CHURCH, DECISION BY EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD WOULD PUT AN END TO DEVELOPING CHURCH SCHISM WHICH BISHOPS' ACTIONS HAVE CREATED. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE ARCHBISHOP WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE OFF- ISLAND PRELATES. POPPER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI00522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730328/aaaahsbf.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NICOSIA 506 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <31-Jul-2001 by davisw, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971201
Subject: CYPRUS: PATRIARVH OF AMTIOCH SUPPORT MAKARIOS AGAINST BISHOPS, GIVING ARCHBISHOP PROBABLE MAJORITY IN ANY APPEAL
TAGS: PIMT, CY, GR, TU, UK, n/a
To: AMKARA
ATHENS
LONDON
NATO
NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH
USEUCOM
USUM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005